

File: SAFE

OMB Briefing on SAFE

DDI's Notes

Although the daily flow of information to the production analyst is not increasing, the inventory of information he should be dealing with is growing significantly.

More and more of the information analysts receive is coming into the Agency in machine language.

- .. This makes it easier to use computers to facilitate the analysts' work.
- .. Computer developments have advanced so that they are more applicable to this sort of use.
- .. Our new analysts have been trained and expect computer assistance in their work.

The kinds of questions we are now being asked put less emphasis on the immediate reporting of facts and more emphasis on analysis in depth.

- .. This requires us to have command of a broader body of information and to be able to organize, manipulate, and store it.

We need to assure that the analyst has easy and quick access to all the accumulated information relevant to the problem he is analyzing.

- .. Either in his own files or in the more general purpose files of the Agency.
- .. I must be sure that the analyst has effectively used all the information available.

With the increase in workload and the limitations on the number of analysts we have, we must find new ways to amplify the effectiveness of each analyst.

In the past I have looked on computers for analytical work as useful primarily in organizing numerical data and for computation. I have viewed most suggestions for computer applications to textual information as gimmicks to find uses for computers.

- .. SAFE is different. I have no doubt that we will have to have something like SAFE if we are to do the jobs we are being asked to do.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR OMB BRIEFING ON SAFE
14 November 1974

1. Would the proposed system enable you to analyze and produce intelligence on a more timely basis? If so, How? (OCI/Walsh)
2. Looking at SAFE, for a moment, solely as a storage and retrieval system for Branch files, what can the SAFE system do for the analyst that the Agency storage and retrieval system cannot do? (OSR,)
3. How has SAFE improved your ability to handle information, i.e., speed of retrieval, by document or class of information; ability to correlate information; and current awareness? (OSI,)
4. What will be the impact of SAFE on the space required for document storage in the production offices?
5. What is the potential utility of SAFE as a crisis management tool?

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